

JELLY

Clare Rees

CREATIVE WRITING LESSON STARTERS

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The following questions are intended to aid student-led, small-group discussions on the book - perhaps as a tutor time activity, or in Reading for Pleasure book groups/library sessions.

- On Page 1, the questions are generic and require a longer response. They are intended to be relevant to any section of the book, and require inference skills.
- On Pages 2-7 the questions are divided by chapter and simply address information retrieval.
- On Page 8, there are some general discussion questions for use after reading.

What clues are there about the characters' pasts in this section?

Is there a sense of danger or of safety in this section? If so, how has this been created?

What is your impression of the Jellyfish? Has it (or Martha's description of it) changed in any way?

What is Martha's mood in this section? Can you provide evidence to support your view?

Can you describe the relationship between the four main characters in this section?

What do we learn about the setting (both dry land and the Jellyfish)?

What is your impression of the adults? How is this shaped by Martha's opinion of them?

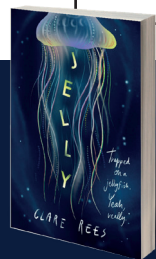
Can you spot any literary or linguistic devices? Why do you think they might have been used?

What do we learn about the kriks in this section?

Was there a passage/line you particularly liked? Why?

Was there a passage/line you particularly disliked? Why?

What question would you like to be asked about this section?



Chapter-by-chapter questions

Chapters 1-3

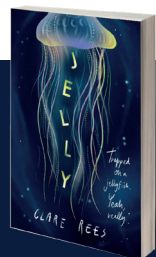
- What are your first impressions of Martha, James, Kate and Lana?
 - What clues are there as to how they've ended up on the Jellyfish?
 - What information do we get about the society of people living on the Jellyfish? How is the society structured?
 - What does the Pitiful Pete incident show us about the escape attempts so far?
 - What are your first impressions of the adults on the Jellyfish?
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Chapters 4-6

- What clues are there that they play rugby regularly? And what is Martha's attitude towards this?
 - What is the important incident that happens right at the end of the rugby match?
 - What do we learn about the shore?
 - What are kriks? How do you kill them?
 - How would you describe Soldier John in Chapter 6?
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Chapters 7-9

- Give three pieces of information that we learn about the Jellyfish in Chapter 7.
- 2. How do they try to escape in Chapter 8?
- 3. Can you provide evidence that Martha doesn't fully respect the adults in this section?
- 4. What information does Old Albert's talk give us about how they ended up on the Jellyfish?
- 5. What information does Dr Jones give us about the nature of the Jellyfish?



Chapter-by-chapter questions

Chapters 10-12

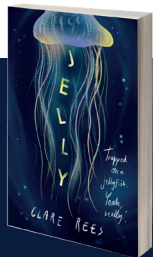
- How do Kate and Lana's opinions of the Jellyfish differ in Chapter 10?
 - What do we learn about how kriks behave in this section?
 - How are the humans on the shore described (physically) in Chapter 11?
 - Why is Martha so impressed by the humans?
 - How do Martha's emotions change over the course of these three chapters?
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Chapters 13-15

- What do you think the blue-haired woman sees in the water? Why?
 - How does Martha's attitude change in Chapter 13?
 - What does Lana tell Kate, James and Martha in Chapter 13 that shocks them?
 - What is James' big decision in Chapter 14?
 - What items do they make out of plastic bags?
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Chapters 16-18

- What are the two evening lectures going to be about in Chapter 16?
- What is Dr Jones' attitude at the end of Chapter 16? What does that suggest?
- What has changed in the relationship between Martha and James in Chapter 17?
- Pitiful Pete has not spoken in the book. Why do you think this is?
- How do the four main characters deal with their grief in Chapter 18?



Chapter-by-chapter questions

Chapters 19-21

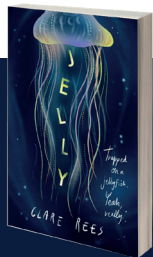
- Can you describe Martha's emotions in Chapter 19?
 - What is your impression of Soldier John in Chapter 20?
 - What makes Staring Crone happy in Chapter 21?
 - How many dead bodies are there?
 - What is important about how the Jellyfish treats the dead bodies from the boat?
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Chapters 22-24

- Why does James try to avoid Dr Jones in Chapter 22?
 - What colour is Lana's hair?
 - What is it that Kate realises in Chapter 23?
 - Who leaves on the boat?
 - How, according to Kate, does the Jellyfish check that they're still there?
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Chapters 25-27

- How does James want to poison the Jellyfish in Chapter 25?
- What is Martha's vision of herself in Chapter 25?
- What does James hope might be hidden in the underwater houses?
- What do they collect from the houses?
- What happens to the Big House?



Chapter-by-chapter questions

Chapters 28-30

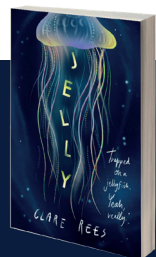
- Why do they decide to sleep on the cliffs?
 - What do they eat for breakfast?
 - What is Martha's big idea in Chapter 29?
 - Who is definitely not expected to be involved in catching sheep?
 - How do they catch the sheep in the end?
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Chapters 31-33

- Where do they send the sheep?
 - What does Martha describe as 'small nuggets of perfection'?
 - Where do the four main characters hide when the kriks attack?
 - How many fingers does Soldier John hold up?
 - How do the main characters kill the kriks?
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Chapters 34-36

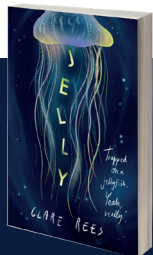
- Where do they hide when the krik comes into the house?
- How does James kill it?
- Which shop did Martha go to first?
- What's the name of the castle?
- What new weapon does James choose?



Chapter-by-chapter questions

Chapters 37-39

- How does Martha feel about James at the start of Chapter 37?
 - How long did James wear his last pair of pants for?
 - What does Lana read on the way out to the Jellyfish?
 - How do they kill the Jellyfish?
 - What washes up on the shore beside them when they reach the shore?
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Discussion questions

What is the role of Pitiful Pete and Staring Crone in the book? Are they one-dimensional characters defined by their names (charactonyms)?

We see all of the characters through Martha's eyes. How far does this shape our opinion of them?

The Jellyfish tries to kill the people on board, yet also provides them with food and water. How do you see the Jellyfish as a character? Is it a 'baddie'?

What do you think is the message of this book?

Do you think the four main characters have changed in any way by the end of the book? If so, how?

What do you think is the significance of the herd of small jellyfish in the final chapter?

What view of humanity does this book express?

Are all the adults in this book portrayed negatively?

The world is shown to be full of pollution and floating plastic, yet the people continue to find ways to use the debris. What do you feel is the significance of this?

When Martha, James, Kate and Lana go to the shops, they find most of them still fully stocked with items. Why do you think this might be?

What clues are there to suggest that the jellyfish people may, in fact, have been lucky to be kept by the creature?

What clues are there to suggest what life would be like in Castle Huw?

